CBS NEWS- STS 41-B LAUNCH (2-3-1984)

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From February 3rd, 1984 CBS NEWS Coverage of STS-41-B, The 10th Space Shuttle Launch.
Launched at 8:00:00 A.M E.T

STS-41-B CREW:

Commander: Vance D. Brand
Pilot: Robert L. Gibson
Mission Specialist 1: Bruce McCandless II
Mission Specialist 2: Robert L. Stewart
Mission Specialist 3: Ronald E. McNair

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIMqh8MPRCk)

[Music] it's the morning rush hour here at the kennedy space center in florida in just about a minute and a half from now five men in the space shuttle challenger will begin their commute to work an eight day business trip a 3.3 million mile business trip good morning i'm morton dean and with me here at the kennedy space center this morning is astronaut jim buckley jim the countdown has been perfect seems to be the best one so far more it's really going well of course they always say it's the best one so far but this one really is let's take a look at the space shuttle challenger out on launch pad 39a and listen to the voice of mark hess the voice of launch control t-minus one minute and counting sound suppression system now arms hydrogen burn igniters also armed at this time again a five-man crew counting solid rocket booster development flight instrumentation quarters going to record mode t-minus 42 seconds and counting the tenth flight of the shuttle the fourth for the shuttle challenge 38 seconds over the computer's positioning vent doors to launch configuration coming up on a go to take over control by the onboard computers and we have a go for auto sequence start t-minus 23 seconds and counting the weather orbiter computers now in command of the countdown t minus 15 14 13 12 11 10. we have a go for main engine start six five we have main engine start three two one zero we have solid rocket booster ignition and liftoff of challenger and the tenth space

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[Music] mission control 20 seconds 25 seconds preparing to throttle down 275 on the main engines [Music] confirmed the vehicle bears pass through the maximum aerodynamic pressure [Music] 52 seconds velocity 1100 feet per second downrange distance to nautical miles altitude 4.7 the shuttle challenger is on its way a brilliant blue sky here at the kennedy space center magnificent bringing re-throttling engines back up to 100 percent three inches down 100 sounds again looks [Music] big event is the separation of two of the rocket booster engines we see them spewing flame now we haven't heard much from the crew so far one minute 45 seconds velocity 3 400 feet per second altitude 17 nautical miles downrange distance 17 nautical miles the boosters should separate in about about 10 seconds now standing by for solid rocket booster separation and we should be able to see them break away roger pc coming up just about now there they go

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there they go and the uh two big booster engines will fall back into the atlantic ocean they are really well there they are confirmed calendar houston first stage performance nominal uh roger newsome nominal first stage of ascent uh during the srb performance two minutes 35 seconds velocity 4700 feet per second down range did since 48 nautical miles altitude 33 nautical miles okay we'll continue to burn for about six more minutes on the main engines and then they'll shut down and followed shortly there after by burn by the ohms engines to get us to orbit commander vance brand in charge of this flight jim that's correct this is the third flight for advance in three minutes velocity per second downrange distance dr ron mcnair the second american black to fly into space bruce mccandless and bob stewart they're going to be busy up there i certainly will be turn status and mission control mccandless in stuart will be uh donning a backpack opposition's uh give a go three minutes uh for the very first time not only for americans but for uh cosmonauts as well for the soviet astronauts as well um man will leave a spacecraft and not be tempted to appreciate orbit call and here we're joined by a uh an astronaut uh here's the model up front and this is the uh backpack and this is really buck rogers isn't it jim certainly is morton this is a cold gas

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certainly is morton this is a cold gas backpack uh first of its kind that will be able to provide an additional capability to the to the shuttle and something that we'll be able to use in future with the space station also and up here uh there are two uh throttles who he actually flies himself doesn't it yes it does this one over here provides translation control this one is rotation he has control of all degrees of freedom with the backpack this will have a very important application to the next mission when a damaged satellite will be rescued by two astronauts and wrestled back into the uh shuttle's cargo bay and repaired this is actually the shakedown if you will of the maneuvering pack for that mission morton which will repair the solar max satellite so far we've heard nothing to indicate that the shuttle challenger is having any difficulty whatsoever the launch was uh beautiful and the five men are on their way nautical miles downrange distance 237 nautical miles velocity 10 000 feet per second some business has to be taken care of up there also uh jim a couple of deliveries that's right today later on today we'll deploy a west star communications satellite for western union tomorrow we'll deploy a communications satellite satellite for the and indonesians of challenger and attempted space shuttle flight and we are uh six minutes into the flight now and we're waiting for the word that uh mikko has occurred astronaut talk for main engine cutoff which will mean that the spaceship is in space but it's not quite

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spaceship is in space but it's not quite yet in orbit the orbit being looked for uh today is i think it's 190 miles circular orbit around the earth jim i believe that's correct one and then uh after two days it drops down to about 178 miles why that why the difference why 190 miles today and 178 miles above the earth later on in the week well we have some other tests that we want to do at a lower altitude later on in the flight so we're going to drop it back down so we can perform those tests during the later phase of the mission the challenger has already flown 7.1 million miles in space sort of a used car isn't it it's incredible isn't it that we can do this it sure is at this time a 3.3 million mile trip we're about a minute from main engine cut off you know we were talking about the two astronauts uh mccandless and stuart walking in space i was surprised and you were surprised when we were checking the numbers uh before that more than 20 americans have actually walked in space going back to the earliest days of the u.s space effort i didn't uh i didn't realize until we started talking about it that uh that we had that that wealth of experience i suppose uh it is to be wondered what happens if one of the astronauts begins to drip drift off and his backpack doesn't work how do they go get him and can they retrieve an astronaut who is uh floating free in space without any power well they certainly can and that's been uh simulated so we know how to do that if we have to uh the backpack itself however is completely redundant so the eventuality of that happening is very very minute it is not something that you can build in your backyard it's a 10

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build in your backyard it's a 10 million dollar item i believe each backpack and is not something that you could work on around the home and take off and go off on a flight now that's true it's been about 10 years in development of this particular piece of hardware the number of americans who have uh flown in space uh i think that number uh we up in the 60s 66 now i believe individual americans we are waiting to hear about main engine cut off and it should have occurred by now okay we've had main engine cut off okay so we'll repeat main engine cutoff has occurred so to repeat jim the shuttle challenger is in space and it's on its way into orbit uh it's on its way into an orbit 190 miles above the earth and the flight so far looks good my thanks to astronaut jim buckley for his help this morning i'm morton dean cbs news at the kennedy space center in florida

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